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E-220 Is Born

High Desert Corridor hailed as tomorrow's express highway connection across desert

VICTORVILLE – The co-chairs of the High Desert Corridor Coalition, San Bernardino County Supervisor Bill Postmus and State Senator George Runner, announced today that the High Desert Corridor Coalition garnered major support in the latest federal transportation bill. Key elements of that support include naming the corridor E-220, the corridor being selected as a high national priority, and the allocation of major funding for environmental work on the proposed highway.

“When the coalition started five years ago, this proposal wasn’t on anyone’s agenda for twenty-five years. Now, with the help of our federal leaders Buck McKeon and Jerry Lewis, E-220 is a top priority for the federal government,” said Supervisor Bill Postmus. “It shows how powerful the High Desert can be when we work together.”

The High Desert Corridor – E-220 won the coveted “high national priority” status for its crucial link in future goods movement for the nation. This status, and its name E-220, grants the proposed highway key advantages in competing for future federal transportation funds.

“The High Desert Corridor Coalition has made tremendous progress and with these new developments goods movement across the nation will improve dramatically,” said Senator George Runner. “It is gratifying to know that the nation’s leaders share that vision.”

As proposed, the E-220 will span twenty-two miles from Palmdale/Lancaster to east Apple Valley and will provide major advantages for each city. Through the use of strategies like dedicated truck lanes, the E-220 will pull national and southern California traffic off of existing roads and divert it to this multi-lane corridor.

The recently granted federal funding will be used by local agencies, led by San Bernardino Associated Governments, to undertake major environmental work, which must be completed before construction can begin. Groundbreaking is estimated to be at least ten years away – a full fifteen years before the road was originally scheduled to even be considered as a proposal.

“These federal funds are a huge head-start for this critical highway, especially when combined with the millions in Measure I funds already allocated to the corridor,” said Supervisor Postmus.

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